

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
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5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
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9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO		X		
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	C/EA/DO		X		
18	NIO/USSR		X		
19	D/OEA/DI		X		
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SUSPENSE		Date _____			

Remarks

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Executive Secretary

29 Nov 85

Date

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Diane M. Thompson

Executive Registry

85- 4729

November 17, 1985

Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev  
General Secretary of the Communist Party  
The Kremlin  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear General Secretary:

I am a patriotic American citizen who is dedicated to the cause of rescuing live American prisoners of war held against their will in Southeast Asia. I represent the voices of thousands of Americans who will not rest until the defenders of our country are repatriated. Although our immediate attention is acutely focused on our POWs in Southeast Asia, we have not, nor will we ever, forget the hundreds of Americans still unaccounted for from World War II and the Korean conflict. My purpose for writing this letter is to share with you my beliefs and concerns about the POW issue, and to stress its global significance. I have chosen to direct my feelings to you because I have been touched by your warm, urbane posture, and more importantly, by your intellect. As we quickly approach the summit with the sincere desire to finally talk to each other, I can think of no better time to appeal to you for assistance in our ongoing efforts to rescue our men.

As you know, the POW issue in Southeast Asia has been raised to a national priority by President Reagan. However, due to the delicate political climate in Indochina and because of obvious political difficulties arising from this issue, our government's negotiations for a full accounting of these men has been painfully slow. Even though we have had to contend with this frustrating situation, we now have documented evidence which proves beyond a doubt the existence of American POWs in Southeast Asia. Due to the dedicated efforts of the families of our POW/MIAs and of thousands of veterans and concerned citizens, public awareness has been greatly increased. In fact, a Washington Post Poll this past year revealed that 73% of the American public now believes that Americans are being held against their will in Southeast Asia. This situation has clearly reached a dramatic crescendo: Americans are now demanding the return of our POWs, and will not tolerate the loss of another POW whether it be of natural causes resulting from living conditions in a POW camp or cave dwelling, or especially by execution at the hands of their captors.

During our Veterans Day weekend events, we had three very special guest speakers. They were former Vietnam POW Robert Garwood, former Korean POW Steve Kiba, and former World War II POW John Noble. Our purpose for bringing these men together was to provide them the opportunity to share their knowledge of the evidence which proves that some of our servicemen have been detained following all three wars. The statement that we were making not only to our own countrymen but to the people of the world was that this situation has continued for far too long. Additionally, we feel it is imperative that all the power elite accept the fact that civilization

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has progressed to the degree that we do, indeed, value the life of every human being. We will no longer tolerate political casualties. This precious regard for human life is a crucial issue that I sincerely hope you and President Reagan will constantly remember when contemplating the future of mankind through your endeavors to control this nuclear nightmare that we are burdened with forever.

We know of the continued Soviet assistance to the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchia, as well as continued Soviet presence in Vietnam and Laos. It is our understanding that our POWs are being used in training films for Soviet backed Cuban rebels and others in an effort to demonstrate the vulnerability of Americans under torture. Our efforts to negotiate with the Vietnamese have been ridiculously slow and focused primarily on the return of the bodies of our soldiers who have died in captivity or during combat. Although we are grateful for the recent cooperation shown by the Vietnamese and Lao governments in allowing us to participate in crash site excavations for remains, it is impossible to forget the 400 American bodies which are currently residing in a warehouse in Hanoi. In addition to the deplorable remains issue, they have constantly lied to us about the presence of our live POWs. I am also appalled by their commitment to our government to resolve this issue in two years. We have already waited fourteen years too long for what is rightfully ours.

Keeping all this in mind, I now appeal to you to assist our efforts to secure the immediate release of our POWs and the remains of our loved ones. I can think of no better sign of good faith by you to demonstrate your sincere desire to develop a real working relationship with our country. Based upon all that I have learned about you, I believe that you are a true humanitarian. However, considering the continued Soviet involvement in Southeast Asia, a situation you clearly have inherited from past Soviet leaders, I feel justified in respectfully requesting that you utilize your influence to assist in the urgent efforts to resolve this political and humanitarian issue. Regarding the issue of Americans still missing from World War II and Korea, I must mention the numerous indications which strongly lead us to believe that these men may still be detained in Siberia. You understand how we must feel about this situation.

In closing, I ask you to take a moment to reflect on the teachings of the 16th century philosopher, Nostradamus. Allowing me to express my interpretation of his work, he tells of the Third World War and resulting nuclear holocaust. He states that the war may be started by a third world nation, but backed by a great power, the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, not until thousands of lives have been lost and after great global destruction, do the two great powers finally join forces against the initiator of this madness. Considering the numerous trouble areas in the world today, it is easy to see that this is not an unreasonable warning.

Mr. Gorbachev, it would be a great tragedy if the state of affairs between our two countries were allowed to progress to this proportion. Please take another step closer to making detente a reality. Help us secure the release of our POWs. Our commitment to these men is great. It is impossible not to remember during any moment of happiness that our men are suffering and dying in camps and caves right at this moment in Southeast Asia. We will not rest until our brave soldiers come home alive. Let us never forget the value of every human life.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Thompson

DMT/

cc:

President Ronald Reagan  
Vice President George Bush  
Secretary of State, George Schultz  
Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger  
Assistant Secretary of Defense, Richard Armitage  
National Security Advisor, Robert McFarlane  
Members of the U.S. Senate  
Members of the U.S. Congress  
Director of Central Intelligence Agency, William Casey  
Director of Defense Intelligence Agency, Leonard H. Perroots  
National Security Council, Richard Childress

Michael Clark (Son of MIA Father), Board of Directors, National League of Families  
Dr. Armand Hammer  
H. Ross Perot

Bill Paul (Wall Street Journal)  
Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta (Washington Post)  
Bill Outlaw (Washington Times)  
John C. Quinn (USA Today)  
Monica Jenson (60 Minutes-CBS)  
Peter Jennings (ABC)  
Jane Pauley (Today Show - NBC)  
Phil Donahue (ABC)  
David Taylor (BBC)

Russian Embassy  
Vietnamese Embassy

